

Solutions

Fall 2006

Route 34/72 Project Makes A Difference

When MoDOT began working with the officials and citizens of Jackson to improve safety on Route 34/72, there were a lot of meetings held about the solution. Project Manager Eric Krapf says that there are still a lot of meetings held today.

"I meet with property owners along the corridor at least once a week," he says. "I think that's a good thing. This is a large project in a residential area with a great number of cars through there a day. Things are going to naturally pop up that need to be monitored and addressed."

Phase one of the project is finished, and work is now underway on phase two. Krapf says with all the inconveniences that often come from roadway

construction, it's important to remember why the project is needed.

Improved safety was the goal. Too many vehicles entering and exiting a road at too many points can lead to crashes and injuries. The plan is to reduce the number of those potential points that lead to congestion and accidents. MoDOT's research predicted 25 percent fewer accidents once the improvements were in place. Looking at the accident data from the first eight months since phase one has been opened to the public show a 50 percent decrease in accidents from the same period prior to construction.

"That's terrific news," Krapf says. "That's much better than even we had hoped. Knowing that we have reduced accidents by half certainly proves the project worthwhile, and I hope that property owners who have been inconvenienced by construction realize just how important this is as well. It is because of the project team's dedication and

Phase 2 Movin' Right Along

Penzel Construction is currently working to install storm sewers, placing concrete and working on box culverts along phase 2 of the project in Jackson. Traffic will be reduced to one lane throughout the day at various locations for storm sewer installation. Phase 2 is located from one mile west of the Route 25 intersection to 2.2 miles west of Route 25.

The work has resulted in numerous street closings and bypasses. Traffic has been diverted to a bypass, between Jackson Medical Center and County Road 328. County Road 335 is also closed while traffic is shifted to the bypass.

West Vale is permanently closed in order to construct a concrete ditch. West Lane has been closed on the south side of Route 34 and will remain closed until a new box culvert has been placed and new pavement for West Lane has been placed. The intersection at West Main and Route 34 has been closed while traffic is shifted to a second bypass. The bypass will be in place for approximately one month.

Work on phase 2 is expected to be completed in summer 2007.



the willingness of the City of Jackson and its residents to trust and go along with the project that we have reduced accidents by 50 percent. That's half as many people who have experienced that misfortune, that stress, possibly even injury. And at the end of the day, I hope we all understand that that is what this has all been about."

Next Route 72 Project Awarded

The next step in a multi-phase plan to make improvements to Route 72 in Madison, Bollinger and Cape Girardeau Counties is on its way to beginning.

The project actually consists of two projects to make improvements to Route 72 from Route OO in Madison County to just west of Route 51 in Bollinger County. The first project includes resurfacing the roadway as well as the addition of paved shoulders from Route OO

to nearly a mile west of the Castor River. The second project includes resurfacing the roadway as well as the addition of paved shoulders from nearly a half-mile east of the Castor River to just more than a half-mile west of Route 51. This project will include a couple of short roadway relocations at one mile west of Route O and about two miles east of Route HH.

Work is expected to get underway this fall with completion

expected in summer 2008. Traffic will be flagger - controlled to bypasses at places. MoDOT urges all motorists to be alert and use extreme caution in the work zone. MoDOT will alert drivers of any changes to traffic once plans are finalized with the contractor.

The contract was awarded to Iron Mountain Trap Rock Co., Iron Mountain, Mo., in September.

What's Left For 72 Improvements?

Route 67/72 interchange to Route OO at Fredericktown--Construct Route 72 on new, improved two-lane alignment. Estimated cost: \$6.7M in 2007

Saline Creek east of Fredericktown--Replace Saline Creek bridge on existing alignment. Estimated cost: \$1.5M in early 2010

Little Whitewater Creek in Bollinger County--Replace bridge on new alignment. Estimated cost: \$1.6M in early 2009

Route 51 in Bollinger County to Cape Girardeau County--Resurface Route 72 and provide surfaced shoulders. Estimated cost: \$4.6M in early 2008

Bollinger County to Route 34 in Cape Girardeau County--Resurface Route 72 and provide surfaced shoulders. Estimated cost: \$4.5M in early 2009

Whitewater Creek and Byrd Creek in Cape Girardeau County--Replace bridges. Estimated cost: \$5.1M in 2009.

Castor River Bridge Work Continues

Bypasses are open to traffic as work progresses on a new Castor River Bridge.

The project includes relocating and constructing a new bridge over the Castor River nearly a mile west of the Castor River to nearly a half-mile east of the Castor River. The project is part of a multiple-phase plan to improve Route 72 from Fredericktown in Madison County to Route 34 in Cape Girardeau County.

Traffic will use the existing route while the new bridge and roadway were constructed. The bypasses were built on each end of the project to tie-in with the new connections when the project is completed. After the new road is built and opened, the old Castor River Bridge will be removed.

The project is expected to be completed in summer 2007. Drivers are urged to use extreme caution in the work zone.



Route 72 Bypass Public Hearing

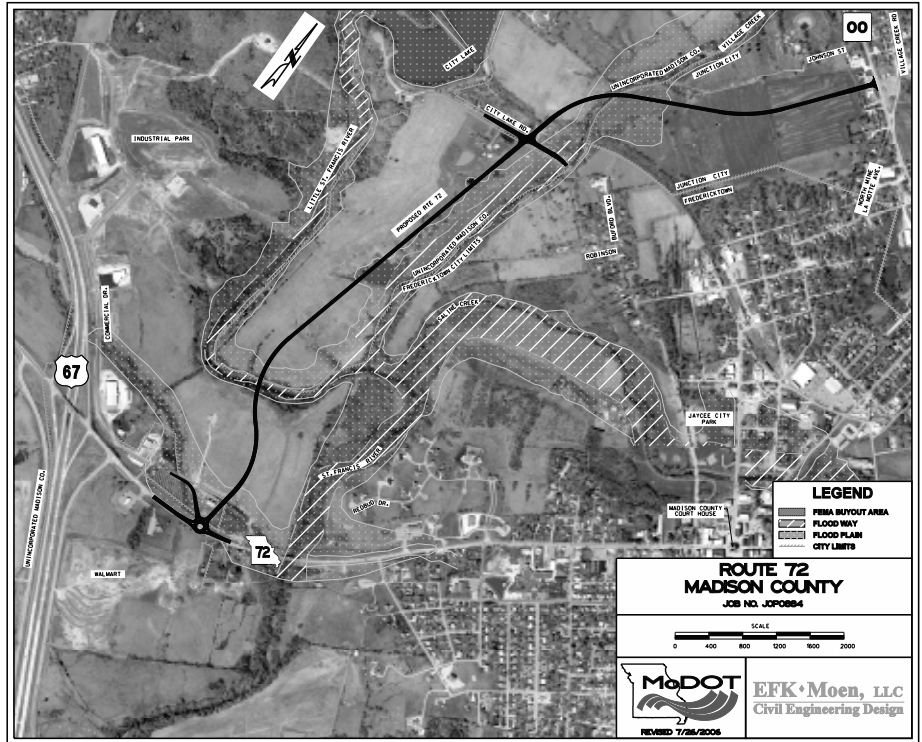
After gathering public input at several public meetings and working with Madison County and Fredericktown officials, a route for the Route 72 bypass has been determined. Residents will have one more chance to comment prior to MoDOT obtaining design approval for the project. A public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 16 from 4-7 p.m. at the Black River Electric Cooperative in Fredericktown.

"We met with the county after the last public meeting to discuss our ideas based on public comment and got its endorsement to proceed with the design of the northern alternate (Alignment #3) with some slight modifications," says Project Manager Tim Richmond.

The modifications to the northern route are expected to help decrease costs. The ends of the bypass will remain in the same location, but will be shifted a short distance east between the Little St. Francis River crossing and the crossing at Village Creek. The shift will shorten the length of the bypass and the bridge at the Little St. Francis River both of which will reduce costs. The chosen alternate also includes a roundabout on the south end of the bypass.

"The roundabout provides a solution to access that wouldn't have been possible with a regular signalized intersection," Richmond says.

Richmond says results of a traffic analysis indicate that a roundabout will also out perform a traffic signal from a driver delay perspective.



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Patton Junction Improvements Complete

A project to improve safety on Route 72 near Patton is likely to be completed before this publication reaches your mailbox.

The project includes intersection improvements and partially realigning the road to improve the sight distance of the Route 72/51 (Patton Junction) intersection in Patton. MoDOT is removing part of a hill to the west of the Route 72/51 intersection and filling in a hole to the east to improve the sight distance.

The \$1,513,457 contract was awarded to Joe's Bridge and Grading, Inc., Poplar Bluff, Mo., earlier this year.



Questions On Route 72 Improvements?



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Bypass Continued

“This project is a great example of local officials sharing their needs, and MoDOT working with them and the public to determine the best solution.”

Now that the alternate has been determined, work is underway on preliminary design and a design public hearing will be held this winter. Construction on Phase 1 of the project could begin in fall 2007. Right-of-way purchasing is expected in spring 2007.

Solutions

is a newsletter designed to keep you informed of work planned and ongoing on Route 72 from Fredericktown in Madison County to Route 34 in Cape Girardeau County. The newsletter will also keep residents along the Route 34/72 corridor in Jackson informed with the latest about those improvements.

- Route 34/72 Improves Safety
- Castor River Bridge Update
- 72 Bypass Public Hearing

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